

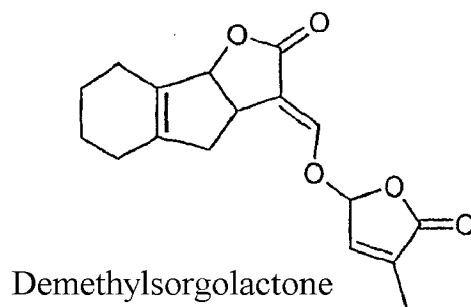
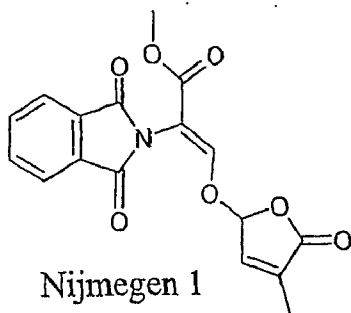
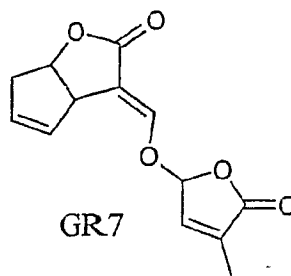
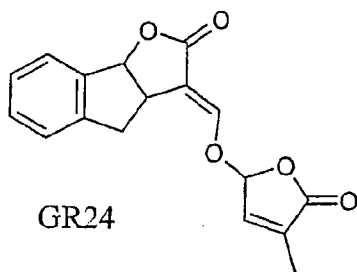
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

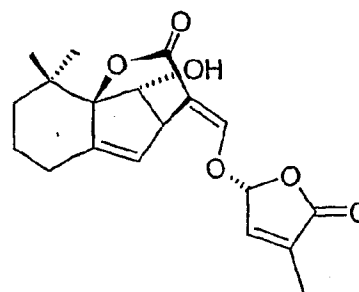
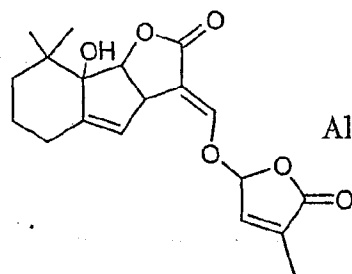
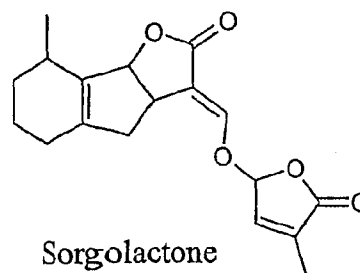
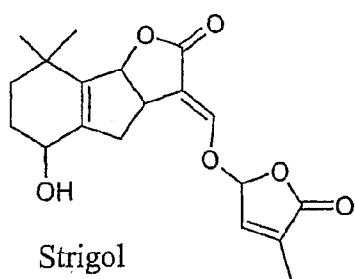
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

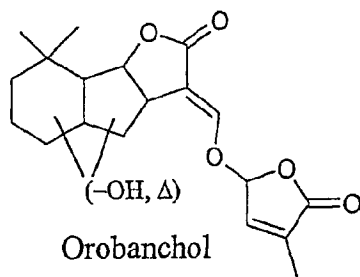
Claims 1-22. (Cancelled)

23. (currently amended) A method of treating arbuscular mycorrhizal (AM) fungi, ~~known as AM fungi, in which~~ comprising contacting said AM fungi ~~are brought into contact~~ with at least one stimulating agent in at least an amount that is suitable for stimulating the development and/or growth of said AM fungi, said stimulating agent having a structure selected from:





and



24. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein said method is carried out on AM fungi in the form of spores.

25. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein said method is carried out on mycorrhizated root fragments.

26. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein said treatment of the AM fungi is carried out in the presence of living host plant material, ~~known as the host plant,~~ corresponding, at least partly, to a constitutive root part of a plant capable of forming a symbiosis with AM fungi.

27. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein said treatment is carried out in an aseptic medium *in vitro*.

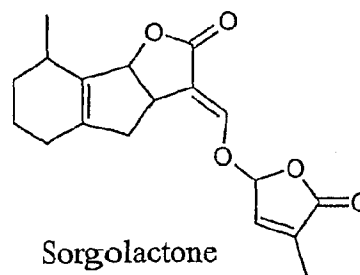
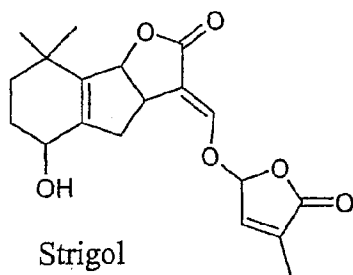
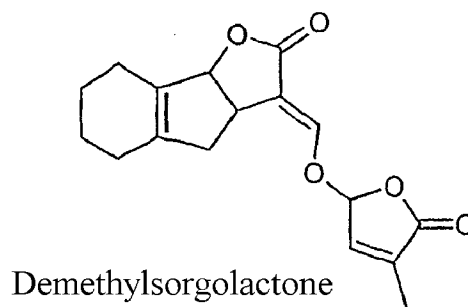
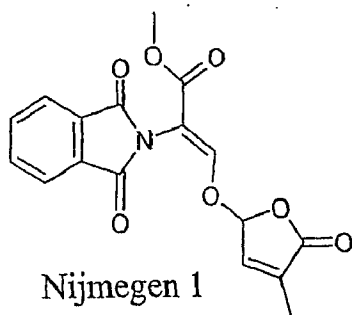
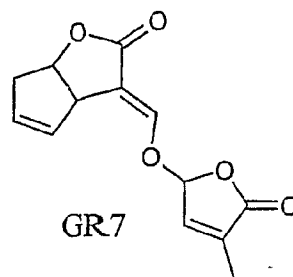
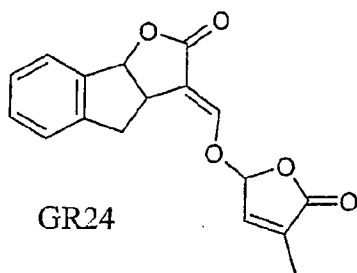
28. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein said treatment is carried out on at least one whole host plant cultivated in a pot.

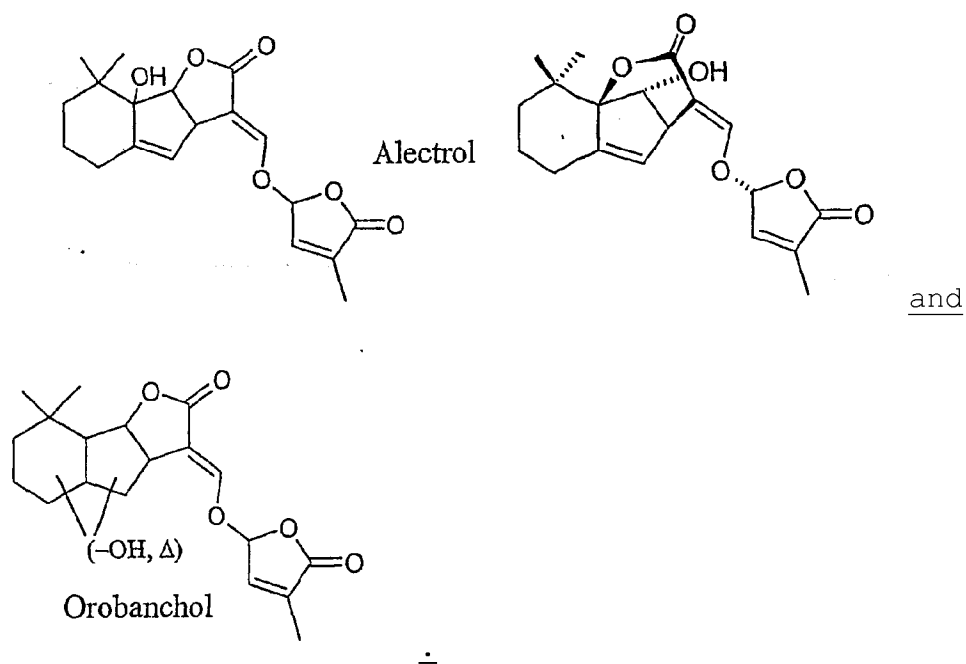
29. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein said treatment is carried out on at least one whole host plant cultivated in the field.

30. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein said AM fungi is selected from *Glomus intraradices* and *Gigaspora rosea* ~~are used~~.

31. (currently amended) A method of producing inoculum of arbuscular mycorrhizal (AM) fungi, ~~known as AM fungi, in which a~~ comprising preparing a co-culture of AM fungi ~~is prepared~~ in the

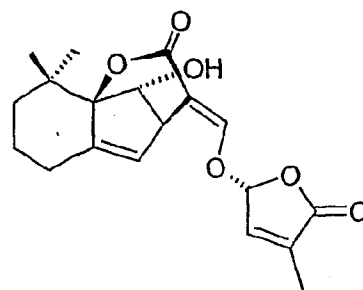
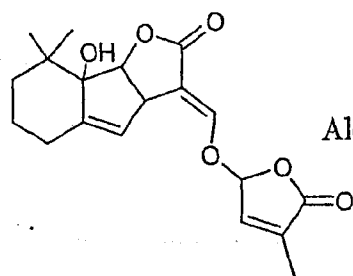
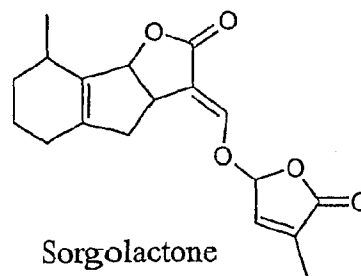
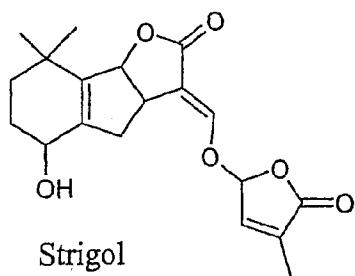
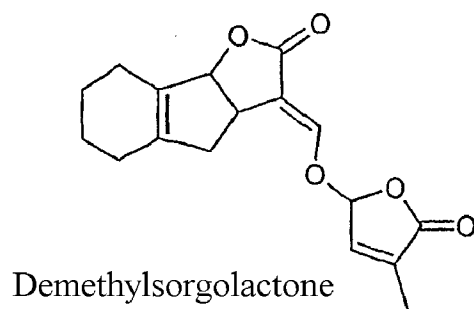
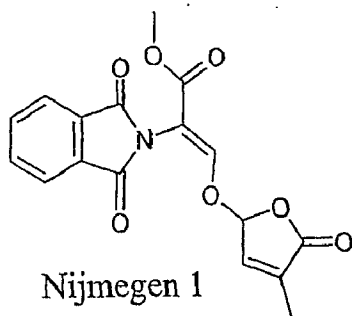
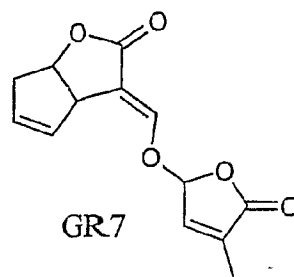
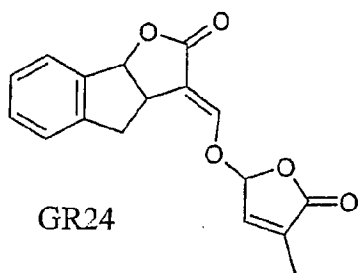
presence of living host plant material, ~~known as the host plant,~~
corresponding, at least partly, to a constitutive root part of a
plant capable of forming a symbiosis with AM fungi, ~~which method~~
~~comprises also~~ and bringing said co-culture into contact with at
least one stimulating agent in at least an amount that is
suitable for stimulating the development and/or growth of said AM
fungi, said stimulating agent having a structure selected from:



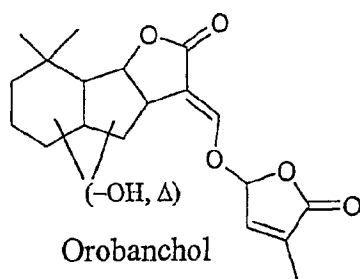


32. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 31, wherein the AM fungi are treated with said co-culture.

33. (currently amended) A method of cultivating a host plant capable of forming a symbiosis with arbuscular mycorrhizal (AM) fungi, ~~known as AM fungi,~~ comprising adding in which there is added to a cultivation soil at least one stimulating agent for stimulating the development and/or growth of AM fungi, ~~which~~ wherein said stimulating agent is selected from:



and



~~which method comprises adding~~ and the stimulating agent is added at the time of sowing of the seeds of the host plant that is to be cultivated and/or subsequently to said sowing.

34. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 33, wherein the host plant is cultivated in a greenhouse.

35. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 33, wherein the host plant is cultivated in the field.

36. (previously presented) The method according to claim 33, wherein said AM fungi are naturally present in said cultivation soil.

37. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 35, wherein said cultivation soil is supplemented with AM fungi.

38. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 33, wherein said stimulating agents ~~for stimulating the development and/or growth of said AM fungi~~ are added repeatedly.

39. (currently amended) A composition comprising, in combination, a quantity of seeds of a host plant capable of forming a symbiosis with AM fungi, and a quantity of stimulating agent for stimulating the development and/or growth of AM fungi, ~~which~~ wherein said stimulating agent is selected from: GR24, GR7, Nijmegen-1, demethylsorgolactone, strigol, alectrol, sorgolactone, and orobanchol.

40. (previously presented) The composition as claimed in claim 39, wherein said composition is formulated so as to form a coating by means of a material capable of disintegrating on contact with a solvent.

41. (currently amended) The composition as claimed in claim 39, ~~wherein it also comprises~~ further comprising a quantity of AM fungus inoculum.

42. (currently amended) The composition as claimed in claim 41, wherein the AM fungus inoculum is inoculum of AM fungi selected from: *Glomus intraradices* and *Gigaspora rosea*.

43. (currently amended) A composition comprising, in combination, a quantity of AM fungus inoculum and a quantity of stimulating agent for stimulating the development and/or growth of AM fungi, ~~which~~ wherein the stimulating agent is selected from: GR24, GR7, Nijmegen-1, demethylsorgolactone, strigol, alectrol, sorgolactone, and orobanchol.

44. (previously presented) The composition as claimed in claim 43, wherein said composition is formulated so as to form a coating by means of a material capable of disintegrating on contact with a solvent.